



## **WESTERN BEAVER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

District Plan  
for  
Identifying Students in Homeless Situations  
and  
Providing Services

Per McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act  
Created 2015-16. Updated 2023-24

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by ESSA and reauthorized in December 2015, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. Services to homeless children are required by Local Educational Agencies are primarily found under the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, as amended by ESSA, and under Title I.

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, each school district must have a designated District Homeless Liaison who is responsible for ensuring the identification, school enrollment, attendance, and opportunities for academic success of students in homeless situations. Some of these activities may be performed by the local liaison himself or herself, while others are accomplished by coordinating the efforts of other staff in the district.

Western Beaver School District will have a Homeless Liaison team at each school. The Liaison will be the principal or the guidance counselor. School level personnel know the individual needs of their students and can act in the best interest of the child better than a district level liaison.

District level personnel will be engaged to support needs assessment and coordinate appropriate services, when determining transportation arrangements and in confirming accurate reporting of homeless students for regional and state reporting requirements.

### 2023-24 District Homeless Liaison Structure

School	Homeless Liaison School Level Team	
	Principal	Guidance Counselor
Fairview Elementary School	Ron Busby	Paige Mclain/Kelly Fortner
Western Beaver High School	David Brandon	Kelly Fortner

District Support Personnel	Position	Responsibility
Robert Postupac	Superintendent	Transportation Arrangements/Needs assessment services coordination
Kelly Fortner	Guidance Counselor / Homeless Liaison	State & Regional Reporting Services coordination
Wendy Robison	School Nurse	Student Medical Needs

## **Definition of Homelessness [McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 725(2);**

The term “homeless children and youths”

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and

(B) includes —

- i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”);
- ii) living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
- iii) living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
- iv) are abandoned in hospitals;
- v) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- vi) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- vii) migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.

### **Unaccompanied Youth**

The term, “unaccompanied youth” includes youth in homeless situations who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

### **Notice of Educational Rights**

All schools within the Western Beaver School District shall ensure that public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated. Posters in English will be posted prominently at all schools. School Principals will directly provide notification of rights either orally or in writing to families and unaccompanied students who meet eligibility.

### **School Selection/School of Origin**

Homeless students may choose to enroll in the same public school as students living in the same attendance zone are eligible to attend, or to enroll in their school of origin. “School of Origin” is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled when deemed homeless. Western Beaver School District will enroll the child in the attendance zone school or continue the child’s enrollment in the school of origin based upon what is in the best interest of the child. It is highly suggested that the parent discuss these options with the school Principal and/or Guidance Counselor.

Western Beaver School District must enroll homeless students in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless it is against the parent or guardian’s wishes. Students are permitted to remain in their schools of origin until the end of the academic year or for the duration of their homelessness or until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing.

## **Eligibility Provisions**

A homeless student's residential status (whether or not the student is currently homeless) should have no bearing on eligibility to participate in a specific program, except in instances where homelessness automatically confers eligibility. Students experiencing homelessness should be able to participate in programs as any other student would. They must meet any eligibility requirements but should not be excluded solely because they are homeless. However, district rules apply to enforcement of policies and procedures regarding discipline and behavior.

## **Dispute Resolution**

If a homeless student is sent to a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by a parent/guardian, the school district must provide a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal, whether or not the parent/guardian disputes the placement. A written explanation of the school's decision must also be provided if a parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth disputes a school placement or enrollment decision. Whenever a dispute arises, the student must be immediately admitted to the school of choice while the dispute is being resolved. The school liaison team must carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. The School Level Homeless Liaison, with district office support, must ensure that the dispute resolution process is also followed for unaccompanied youth who meet the definition/criteria in McKinney-Vento (see Appendices E & F).

## **Eligibility of Homeless Students for Title I Services**

A child or youth who is homeless and is attending Western Beaver School District is automatically eligible for Title I homeless services, regardless of their current academic performance.

Homeless students who attend schools that do NOT receive Title I funds are entitled to services as are homeless students who attend schools that receive Title I funds. Title I services for students at schools that do NOT receive Title I funds include reading, mathematics, science, social studies, guidance and counseling, social services, clothing, tutoring, and health services.

## **Transportation**

Federal law requires school districts to provide transportation to the school of origin, at the request of the parent or guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the district's homeless liaison. The law does not necessarily mean door-to-door. A district must offer reasonable transportation comparable to what is offered to non-homeless peers. It is common for students to have to walk to a bus stop a few blocks from their home to catch a bus.

If the student is McKinney-Vento eligible and also qualifies for district transportation services, the principal and/or guidance counselor will complete the "Transportation Request Form for McKinney-Vento Students" form (Appendix C) and forward it to the district business office. The business office will make arrangements to begin offering transportation services within three business days or sooner if possible.

The principal / guidance counselor and the Central Administration will work together to arrange transportation for homeless students who move but request to remain at the school of origin AND are transportation eligible by district guidelines.

## Child Nutrition Services

If the student does qualify as McKinney-Vento eligible, the Food Services Director will complete the child nutrition application (listing only the name of the student, their date of birth, the school name- marking “homeless”), and will arrange for free meals for the students. The Child Nutrition Department MUST maintain written documentation to verify eligibility as a homeless student in order to provide free meals to eligible students. Office staff will provide an email to the Food Services Director when a homeless student is identified with a copy of the SRQ for documentation purposes.

## Withdrawal of Homeless Students

The choice of where a child attends school is governed by the *child’s or youth’s best interest (McKinney-Vento Act, Sec. 722 (g)(3)(A)*. The law specifies that in determining the best interest of the child the district will keep a homeless child in the school of origin, to the extent feasible, unless the parents want to enroll the child in the school where they now actually live. The decision about which school the student should attend- the school that is in the best interest of the child-is left up to the parents. If the student is an unaccompanied youth, the principal and/or guidance counselor shall assist in the placement or enrollment decisions and should consider the views of the unaccompanied youth. If a district sends the homeless student to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian, the district must provide a written explanation to the family, including information regarding the right to appeal this decision.

Therefore, office staff responsible for the withdrawal of students will need to verify the homeless status of **any** student prior to completing paperwork for a school withdrawal. If the student is coded “homeless,” a consultation clearly explaining the student’s right to choose to remain at the school of origin or to change to the local attendance zone school should be held. If the family decides that they feel it is in the child’s best interest to move to another school, they will need to sign and date the form entitled “Educational Stability Waiver” (Appendix D). Only after the parent or guardian has signed this waiver can they be allowed to withdraw from school.

## Records Retention

Office staff will maintain each student's permanent record folder to comply with records retention requirements. These McKinney-Vento records include all forms utilized in this plan.

**Western Beaver School District**  
**Homeless Student Identification Procedures**

1. Each school will inform parents/students identified as homeless about services provided by Western Beaver School District. Principals/guidance counselors will work to ID students and engage Homeless Liaison regarding how to proceed.
2. Western Beaver School District will provide school enrollment assistance to any homeless family who needs it.
3. Homeless students must be allowed to enroll without documentation, such as proof of residency or school immunization records or a birth certificate.
4. Every student/family seeking admission to Western Beaver School District must complete a Western Beaver enrollment form which is available in each school office. The Western Beaver student enrollment form contains a residency question which assists the school principal with determining if a student will be eligible for McKinney-Vento services. If a living arrangement that meets the definition of homeless is marked, the family will be referred to the school principal or guidance counselor for further review. The Principal/guidance counselor will engage the Homeless Liaison to complete the proper paperwork. This includes the Student Residency Questionnaire and Transportation Request (if applicable).
5. When assistance is needed for determining eligibility for McKinney-Vento services, office staff will contact the district office and Homeless Liaison and/or Superintendent. A needs assessment will be performed utilizing the Identification and Needs Assessment Form (Appendix H).
6. If the student does qualify for McKinney-Vento services, office staff will forward the student's information to the Food Services Director who will complete the child nutrition application (listing only the name of the student and their date of birth and school- marking "homeless") and will arrange for free school meals for the students.
7. If the student is McKinney-Vento eligible and also qualifies for district transportation services, the school principal/Homeless Liaison will sign the "Transportation Request Form for McKinney-Vento Students" form, Appendix C, and send it to the transportation provider (i.e Frye Transportation).
8. Students who meet criteria for homeless identification must be identified in SKYWARD. The Data Coordinator to ensure correct data entry for state reporting.
9. All records for homeless services will be kept in the student's file at the school of attendance as well as a district file with the Homeless Liaison.
10. Eligibility for homeless services as per the McKinney-Vento Act meets criteria for a student to be identified as at-risk of dropping out of school. Each school administrator will update any at-risk profiles.
11. Students who meet eligibility as homeless maintain that eligibility and the right to remain at the same school for the remainder of the school year regardless of changes in circumstances relating to parent's employment or place of residence.
12. Data for homeless students will be entered into the regional spreadsheet by the data coordinator and submitted as required.

## Appendix A

### MCKINNEY-VENTO INFORMATION REFERENCE TABLE

Form	Who must complete?	Where do I obtain this form?	Special Notes
<b>Appendix B</b> <b>Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ)</b>	Parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with assistance of school level homeless liaison team (principal / guidance).	School Office Homeless forms file	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a document which office staff needs to have available at all times</li> <li>• Completed copy must be given to the school principal / guidance counselor</li> <li>• To obtain immediate status for “free lunch”, contact Food Services Director</li> </ul>
<b>Appendix C</b> <b>Transportation Request Form</b>	School level homeless liaison team & Business Office if transportation is needed	School Office homeless forms file	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office staff / principal / guidance counselor to send this form to Homeless Liaison.</li> </ul>
<b>Appendix D</b> <b>Educational Stability Waiver</b>	Parent & school level homeless liaison team when <u>withdrawing</u> any homeless student	School Office homeless forms file	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office staff / principal / guidance counselor to send this form to Homeless Liaison.</li> </ul>
<b>Appendix E</b> <b>Non-qualifying parent notification letter</b>	School level homeless liaison team	School Office homeless forms file	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to send to parent / guardian when it has been determined the student does not qualify for McKinney-Vento homeless designation</li> </ul>
<b>Appendix F</b> <b>Placement Decision Appeal Information Form</b>	Parent / Guardian or unaccompanied youth	School Office Homeless forms file	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A parent or guardian may dispute / appeal a decision by the district not to place a student in the homeless program. This form is used to start that process</li> </ul>
<b>Appendix G</b> <b>Choosing between School of Origin and Attendance Zone School</b>	School level homeless liaison team with parent	School Office homeless forms file	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Checklist to help a parent decide to remain at school of origin or withdraw to attendance zone school</li> </ul>
<b>Appendix H</b> <b>Identification and Needs Assessment Form</b>	Superintendent and school level team	Superintendent or Homeless Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This form will be used to determine which services to provide the student.</li> </ul>

## Appendix B

# Western Beaver Student Resident Questionnaire (SRQ)

This form is required to meet the McKinney-Vento act 42 USC 1134a (2). The answers you give will help school personnel to better determine which services the student may be eligible to receive.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

Last School District Attended:	
Last Date of Attendance:	
Address where the student sleeps at night:	
Name of person student lives with:	
Relationship to student:	Parent    Legal Guardian    Friend    Relative    Other (specify): _____

**Check the following condition that describes the student's living situation:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Temporarily living with family or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reasons
<input type="checkbox"/> Living in a motel, hotel or trailer park generally used by and for the housing of homeless families or camping grounds
<input type="checkbox"/> Living in an emergency or transitional shelter and/or awaiting foster care placement
<input type="checkbox"/> Living in a place not designed as regular sleeping accommodations, such as a car, park, abandoned building, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Living with a parent who is a migratory agricultural worker

**Factors contributing to the student's current living situation (mark all that apply):**

<input type="checkbox"/> Family issues (divorce, domestic violence, kicked out, conflict, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Incapacitation of parent/guardian due to physical health, mental health, drugs/alcohol, or other factors
<input type="checkbox"/> Incarceration of parent/guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> Military: Parent/guardian deployed/injured/killed in action
<input type="checkbox"/> House fire	<input type="checkbox"/> Home issues (repairs needed, overcrowding, mold, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of job	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of mortgage or evicted
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of affordable housing in the area	<input type="checkbox"/> High medical bills
<input type="checkbox"/> Minor student unable to afford housing on own	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____

**Provide the following information for school-age siblings (brothers and/or sisters) of the student:**

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Lives at same address? Y or N	Grade	School

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student (circle one)    Parent    Legal Guardian    Friend    Relative    Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> PPS <input type="checkbox"/> NPS <input type="checkbox"/> BIS <input type="checkbox"/> HMS <input type="checkbox"/> BHS	<b>OFFICE USE ONLY:</b> Date Entered Status: _____  Date Exited Status: _____	Transportation Provided? YES / NO  Transportation Request Form Sent to District? YES / NO	SRQ sent to Food Services? YES / NO SRQ sent to Title I? YES / NO SKYWARD updated? YES / NO
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## Appendix C

### Transportation Request Form for McKinney-Vento Student(s)

(Send to Homeless Liaison / Business Office)

Today's Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**School Administrator Name**

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please set-up bus transportation for the following students:***

Student Name:		School:	
Special Needs?	YES / NO	Grade:	
Cost Share Arrangement? YES / NO			
<p>TO BE COMPLETED BY FRYE TRANSPORTATION REPRESENTATIVE:</p> <p>Transportation Arrangement Description:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will utilize existing bus routes (no excess cost)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will need to modify existing bus routes. Excess cost for added/changed route is: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will need to secure a designated vehicle for this transportation. Excess cost is: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will split transportation between 2 district's existing routes (no excess cost)</p> <p>Please describe how student will be transported to school (include bus #s and times):</p>     			

**Additional Students:**

Student Name:		School:	
Special Needs?	YES / NO	Grade:	

Student Name:		School:	
Special Needs?	YES / NO	Grade:	

Student Name:		School:	
Special Needs?	YES / NO	Grade:	

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*For School Use Only -- I certify the above-named students qualify for Transportation Services under the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**School Administrator Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## Appendix D

### Educational Stability Waiver

<b>Student Name:</b>	
<b>Current Physical Address of Student:</b>	
<b>School of Origin:</b>	
<b>Attendance Zone School:</b>	

As per the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by ESSA (ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness), I acknowledge that my child has the right to remain at his/her school of origin or the right to attend his/her attendance zone school.

#### **I am signing this waiver as proof that I acknowledge the following**

[please check the appropriate box]:

- I feel that it is in my child's best interest to remain at the current school (aka: school of origin) thru the end of the current school year.
- I feel that it is in my child's best educational interest to attend his/her attendance zone school and am, therefore, willingly withdrawing my child from his/her current school.

Parent/Guardian Signature:	Today's Date:
Print Name:	Telephone Number:
School Official's Name:	

## Appendix E

### EXAMPLE – Non-Qualifying Parent Letter / WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF SCHOOL DECISION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Re: Placement Decision for (list students' names): \_\_\_\_\_

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to inform you that the above-mentioned child(ren) does/do **not** qualify for placement in the homeless program at \_\_\_\_\_ School because he/she does not meet provisions set forth by the McKinney-Vento Act. The reason(s) for denial include:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not agree with this decision you have the right to appeal the decision. You have 10 school business days from the date of this letter to file an appeal of this decision. During the appeal process, the student is able to remain at the selected school until the decision is finalized. Please contact me if you need further information or if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Principal  
or  
Homeless Liaison

## Appendix F

### Placement Decision Appeal Information Form (McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act)

Person Completing Form: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ School Where Currently Enrolled: \_\_\_\_\_

School Where Seeking Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s) where you can be reached: \_\_\_\_\_

List specific reason why you believe your child qualifies as a homeless student as per McKinney- Vento Act and why you are appealing the placement decision:

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**Child / Youth living with (circle one):** Both Parents   Mother   Father   Legal Guardian   Unaccompanied Youth  
Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Residing at (check one):**

\_\_\_\_\_ Shelter (examples: family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter)

\_\_\_\_\_ Doubled-up

\_\_\_\_\_ Motel / Hotel

\_\_\_\_\_ Unsheltered (examples: car, campground, tent, park, home without running water / electricity)

**Follow Up:**

Date	Contact (Meeting, Telephone)	Participants	Details of Resolution

## Appendix G

### School of Origin Considerations

- Continuity of Instruction**  
The student would be served best at the school of origin due to circumstances that look to his or her **past**.
- Age and grade placement of the student**  
Maintaining friends and contacts with peers is **critical** to the students' meaningful school experience and participation. The student has been in this environment for an extended period of time.
- Academic Strength**  
The student's academic performance is **weak**, and the student would fall further behind if he/she transferred to another school.
- Social and emotional state**  
The student is suffering from the effects of mobility, has developed strong ties to the current school and does not want to leave.
- Distance of the commute and its impact on the student's education**  
The advantages of continuing to attend the school of origin outweigh any potential disadvantages presented by the length of the commute.
- Personal safety of the student**  
The school of origin has advantages for the safety of the student.
- Student's need for special instruction**  
The student's need for special instruction, such as Section 504 or special education and related services, can be met better at the school of origin.
- Length of anticipated stay in a temporary shelter or other temporary location**  
The student's current living situation is outside of the school of origin's attendance zone, but his/her living situation or location continues to be uncertain. The student will benefit from the continuity offered by continuing to attend the school of origin.

### Local School Considerations

(attendance zone school)

- Continuity of Instruction**  
The student would be served best due to circumstances that look to his or her **future**.
- Age and grade placement of the student**  
Maintaining friends and contacts with peers in the school of origin is **NOT particularly critical** to the student's meaningful school experience and participation. The student has attended the school of origin for only a brief time.
- Academic Strength**  
The student's academic performance is **strong** and at grade level and the student likely would recover academically from a school transfer.
- Social and emotional state**  
The student seems to be coping adequately with mobility, does not feel strong ties to the current school, and does not mind transferring.
- Distance of the commute and its impact on the student's education**  
A shorter commute may help the student's concentration, attitude, or readiness for school. The local school can meet all of the necessary educational and special needs of the student.
- Personal safety of the student**  
The local school has advantages for the safety of the student.
- Student's need for special instruction**  
The student's need for special instruction, such as Section 504 or special education and related services, can be met better at the local attendance area school.
- Length of anticipated stay in a temporary shelter or other temporary location**  
The student's current living situation appears stable and unlikely to change suddenly; the student will benefit from developing relationships with school peers who live in his or her local community.